

SENATE BILL 709

By Yager

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63,  
Chapter 1, relative to treatment guidelines for the  
nonresidential use of buprenorphine.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 1, Part 4, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Commissioners" means the commissioner of mental health and  
substance abuse services and the commissioner of health; and

(2) "Nonresidential buprenorphine treatment guidelines" means  
systematically developed standards to assist any practitioners authorized by the  
state to prescribe buprenorphine-containing products for the treatment of opioid  
use disorder as defined in the latest version of the Diagnostic and Statistical  
Manual of Mental Disorders.

(b)

(1) By January 1, 2018, the commissioner of mental health and  
substance abuse services, in collaboration with the commissioner of health, shall  
develop recommended nonresidential treatment guidelines for the use of  
buprenorphine that can be used by prescribers in this state as a guide for caring  
for patients. This subsection (b) shall only apply to practitioners prescribing  
buprenorphine-containing products for the treatment of opioid use disorder in a  
nonresidential setting. The guidelines must be consistent with applicable state  
and federal laws.

(2) Guidelines from nationally recognized organizations, such as the American Society of Addiction Medicine, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the American Board of Preventative Medicine, must serve as resources in the development of guidelines under this section.

(3) The commissioner of mental health and substance abuse services shall consult with appropriate physicians, alcohol and substance abuse counselors, and other experts to serve as resources in the development of guidelines under this section.

(c) Beginning in 2019, the commissioners shall review the nonresidential buprenorphine treatment guidelines by September 30 of each year and shall cause these guidelines to be posted on both the department of mental health and substance abuse services and the department of health's websites.

(d)

(1) The commissioner of mental health and substance abuse services shall submit the nonresidential buprenorphine treatment guidelines to each health-related board that licenses any practitioner authorized by the state to prescribe buprenorphine-containing products for the treatment of an opioid use disorder as defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and to the board of pharmacy.

(2) Each board shall review the nonresidential buprenorphine treatment guidelines and determine how the nonresidential buprenorphine treatment guidelines should be used by that board's licensees.

(3) Each board shall notify all of its licensees through routine bulletins or newsletters of the existence of the nonresidential buprenorphine guidelines and standards.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.